

## Partnership Committee

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<b>Date:</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> April 2015</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Beach Update</b>
<b>Purpose of the Report:</b>	<b>To provide Members of both the Leisure and Community &amp; the Partnership Committee with an update to this year's Beach project.</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Ian Haynes – Head of Grounds and Environmental Services.</b>

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### 1. RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 1.1 To note the report.

### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> December 2014, Leisure and Community Committee resolved to:-
- (i) **to endorse the construction of a temporary beach facility for 2015-16 in Parson's Close Recreation Ground (to be funded by the Partnership Committee as agreed on 11 December 2014)**
  - (ii) to note the intention to create a permanent beach facility in Parson's Close Recreation Ground after 2015-16
  - (iii) to note the intention to seek external grant funding to create a new skate park in another location
  - (iv) to defer a decision regarding refurbishment of the public conveniences and provision of a permanent refreshment/retail facility at Parson's Close Recreation Ground until a full business case could be reviewed by the Committee
- 2.2 In accordance with Member aspirations, the purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update about this year's temporary beach facility in Parson's Close Recreation Ground.
- 2.2 During the very successful 2014 Summer Programme, a temporary beach was introduced to complement the Splash 'n' Play, Skate Park within Parson's Close Recreation Ground.
- 2.3 The rationale for delivering the Beach was to add value to the Town's offer by way of providing a sustained and accessible leisure facility throughout the summer. Given the proximity of Parson's Close to the

High Street, it was considered close enough to the town centre to encourage local and visitor spending in the town.

- 2.4 The overall success of the 2014 temporary beach has led to discussion as to how the Town Council can accommodate a permanent facility.
- 2.5 From last year's experiences and the feedback received from visitors, improvements are to be made to this year's facility.

### **3. IMPROVEMENTS FOR 2015**

#### **Consultation and Construction**

- 3.1 Improved engagement with local residents will take place prior to the construction as feedback from 2014 recorded that the lack of notice caused distress for some Grove Road residents. All residents that share a boundary with Parson's Close Recreation Ground will be informed.
- 3.2 This year, Officers have negotiated the following improvements to the 20m by 20m beach, with suitable sand at least 200mm deep. The beach will be surrounded by treated decking, to create a proven sand retaining wall that collects sand and acts as a practical walkway around the beach, and an easy to use viewing/changing area.



- 3.3 Surrounding the beach will be built a 1.8m high "roll top" open mesh fencing system with gates to match. The mesh fencing will enhance visibility to the benefit of the users and their guardians who may decide to sit outside of the beach.



### **3. BEACH MANAGEMENT**

#### **Staffing**

- 3.1 The day to day beach management will be included within the Grounds and Environmental Services team duties. Hourly inspections will be undertaken by the Grounds staff based in Parson's Close.

### **4. COST**

- 4.1 Set up costs to construct the 2015 Temporary Beach is £24,000 to be taken from Economic Development Budget (4570/504).
- 4.2 When compared to the 2014 beach provision, the new facility is considered to be more robust. This will extend the life of the beach and allow it to be left within Parson's Close for up to two years should Members be minded.
- 4.3 Disposal costs have already been agreed at 2015 prices to be £2,000 (to be paid for in 2017) if it is agreed to remove the beach at that time.
- 4.4 Officers have also included an option to buy the 2015 beach in 2017 for an additional £6,000 which means the beach could be kept and or moved with limited cost. The decision to do either will rest with Members and will be presented at a future committee meeting.

### **5. CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 It is believed that Officers have reviewed and improved the 2015 beach offer. The ability to purchase and extend the life of the beach provides flexibility to the benefit of the parish. In turn, this affords time for the development of other projects namely the development of a new skate park provision.